under NFSM-Pulses. The NFSM envisages to achieve an additional production of 10, 8 and 2 million tonnes of rice, wheat and pulses, respectively in the identified districts of the country by the year 2011-12 including the districts of Madhya Pradesh. The major gain in production is envisaged from enhancing the productivity in rice and wheat and area expansion under pulses.

(d) Besides, NFSM, Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice/Wheat/Coarse cereals based Cropping System Areas are also being implemented through Macro Management Mode for the development of rice, wheat and coarse cereals in non-NFSM districts. For the development of pulses in existing areas, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm & Maize (ISOPOM) is in operation in all the districts of Madhya Pradesh. The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) is also in operation in the state of holistic development and achieving 4% growth in agriculture including foodgrains.

Permission sought by farmers from President of India for suicides

776. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several farmers have sought permission of President of India to end their lives;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the lives of these farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has not received any communication in this regard so far.

(c) In order to address the problem of suicides by farmers, the Government of India approved a rehabilitation package of Rs. 16978.69 crore for 31 districts in four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala reporting comparatively higher number of suicides by farmers. The package includes both immediate and medium term measures. The rehabilitation package aims at establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional credit, crop centric approach to agriculture, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying, fisheries etc. In addition, a debt waiver and debt relief scheme for farmers was announced in the Union Budget 2008-09 in order to address the problem of indebtedness of farmers.

Government of India has also launched two new Schemes namely, National Food Security Mission to improve production and productivity of foodgrains and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana aiming to incentivise the States to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sector so as to achieve 4% annual growth in the agriculture sector during the Eleventh Plan.

Irregularities in distribution of PM/CM relief to farmers in Vidarbha

777. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has recently ordered an inquiry into the multicrore scam in PM and CM relief package meant to help the families of the farmers who committed suicide in Vidarbha region;